



City of Kingston Parks and Recreation

Environmental Education Program

2016-2017 Registration Information

Hudson River Ecology

***FAST FACTS:******What:*** Hudson River Ecology***When:*** 9:30am-2:15pm***Where:*** Kingston Point Beach***Who:*** Grades 3-12***Cost:*** Fees are waived for programs held in 2016-2017 for Ulster County Schools.***Support from:*** Office of Children and Family Services, and the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Program Description

The River That Flows Both Ways is an ever changing environment. In this Hudson River based ecology program, students will learn by doing. As citizen scientists, we will discover the ecological impacts on the river from upstream activity through exploration of all aspects of the river system including:

- ❖ Historical and Current Uses of the Hudson River
- ❖ Exploration of the Intertidal zone through beachcombing
- ❖ Exploration of the riverine food web through Seine fishing
- ❖ Examination of the Physical and Chemical properties of water
- ❖ Use of waders, fishing equipment, binoculars

Program at a Glance

9:30-10:00am	Transport students from school to Kingston Point Beach
10:00-10:15am	Welcome and introductions
10:15-10:35am	Set up gear (seine net, waders, work table, fish displays, dip nets, tanks)
10:35-11:35am	Hands On! Seine Fishing (lesson on Hudson River fish ecology, student's fish, ID catch using dichotomous key, release catch)
11:35-12:00noon	Beachcombing Activity (scour beach front for natural and man-made objects such as shells, aquatic vegetation, rocks, bricks, fish bones, discuss findings)
12:00-12:30pm	Picnic lunch at the Kingston Point Beach pavilion
12:30-12:45pm	Clean up gear
12:45-1:40pm	Historic Waterfront Walk (stroll across the street to Kingston Point Park to see the relics of the century old amusement park and waterfront day-liner docks)
1:40-1:45pm	Wrap up
1:45-2:15pm	Transport students back to school



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Program Details

Throughout the day, students, staff and chaperones will be engaged with hands-on science based activities (including wearing waders into the water). The entire program will be located near the water, which can be very windy and chilly. We will get sandy and muddy. Participants should wear old shoes that might get wet, and they should bring a sweatshirt/jacket. Participants should bring an extra set of clothing, just in case they get wet.

There will be a designated lunch break at the Kingston Point Beach Pavilion. Lunch is on your own and all participants should bring a picnic lunch. There is a Carry-In, Carry-Out Policy with all trash. Everyone will need a lunch, and water. Bathrooms will be available. There is no running water on site.

Adult chaperones are certainly welcome and encouraged. We require a minimum of 2 adults to attend with the class, and a minimum of a 12 to 1 ratio of students to adults at the program site, not including the naturalist instructor(s). At least one adult chaperone/teacher is required to ride the bus with the students (* if using our transportation). Additional adult chaperones should meet us down at Kingston Point Beach. Adults should come prepared to be hands on and engaged in the program as we will need assistance all day.

Transportation

The Parks and Recreation Department is able to provide bus transportation as a collaboration with Kingston Citibus at a fee of \$1 per student. Adults are free. Citibus will pick up your class at 9:30am at the Front Door of your school. The \$1 per student van transportation fee is due by cash or check made payable to Kingston Citibus upon their arrival.

In the event of inclement weather, we will call the school that morning to make any cancellations. At that point, we will offer another reschedule date if one is available. If you need to cancel for any reason, please call the Recreation Department as soon as possible at 481-7339 (Julie Noble's Extension).

The environmental educator(s) will be engaging the students all day in the outdoor learning environment and an appropriate code of conduct is expected from each participant:

- ☐ Classroom teachers will be present for entire program
- ☐ All discipline issues will be addressed by classroom teachers
- ☐ Any student or chaperone who is disrupting the program may be asked to leave
- ☐ Use of cell phones and texting is not permitted
- ☐ Safety is of utmost priority



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This is an outdoor education experience, and should be treated the same as any hands-on, interactive and fun learning experience. Inappropriate behavior will result in a loss of the privilege to participate in the program.

If there are any questions, concerns or changes, the teacher should contact:

Julie Noble

*Environmental Education and Sustainability Coordinator
Kingston Parks and Recreation*

845-481-7339

JulieLNoble@kingston-ny.gov